

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Harold A. Ladouceur Examiner:
Serial No.: Herewith Group Art Unit:
Continuation of 10/004,918
Atty No.: 60,152-1034
Filed: December 11, 2003
Title: **SELF-PIERCING ELEMENT, METHOD OF ATTACHMENT
AND DIE MEMBER**

Parent App.: 10/004,918
Filing Date: December 5, 2001
Examiner: Jermie E. Cozart
Grp. Art Unit: 3726

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants submit the following amendments to the application set forth below. Please charge any fees necessitated by the present amendment to the deposit account number 08-2789 of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C. A version of the specification and pending claims are presented having necessary markings to show the changes made and the current status of all pending claims in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

Amendments to the Specification are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this paper.